

**E. Murray Powell
1610 Tanager Ct.
Templeton CA 93465
805-434-0707**

San Luis Obispo County
Planning Commission
976 Osos Street #200
San Luis Obispo CA 93408

January 12, 2016

Re: Proposed Templeton Acute Care Facility

My name is Murray Powell. I am a former CPA and General Manager of a large construction company. I am writing to object to the SLO County Planning Department review and recommendation to approve the above noted project on the basis of a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Department's decision to issue a deficient, incomplete Mitigated Negative Declaration riddled with intentional misrepresentations and omissions of material issues and facts regarding the facility's purpose and planned operations is unacceptable and a violation of CEQA. The Planning Department report has failed to address significant environmental issues that will impact SLO County.

There are many significant environmental issues that could be addressed regarding this proposed facility. The Planning report Attachment 1 Exhibit – A/Findings Item A. states that “the Environmental Coordinator, after completion of the initial study, finds that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact report is not necessary. Therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration . . . has been issued on October 29, 2015. Item D. states in part “The establishment and subsequent operation or conduct of use will not, . . . , will not be detrimental to the health, safety or welfare of the general public or persons residing or working in the neighborhood of use . . .” and so on.

After reading the entire Planning report including the 105 page Mitigated Negative Declaration, I was surprised to note that there was essentially no detailed information indicated in the documentation addressing the details of the project's operations. I contacted Holly Phipps, Project Manager and asked her what specific operational information was reviewed and investigated that lead to the determination by the “Environmental Coordinator” that the operation of the facility had no significant effect on the environment. Ms. Phipp's response was that “There was no review or investigation of any detailed operation or business plans and that the Planning Department relied solely on the “Project Description” provided by the applicants.”

The Planning Department, as the Lead Agency, based its determinations on an Initial Study only. CEQA sets forth the guidelines for the conduct of an Initial Study in CEQA Section 15063 which states in part “the Lead Agency shall conduct an initial study to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environment.” Subsection (a) (1) states that “All phases of project planning, implementation, and operation must be considered in the Initial Study of the project.” In subsection (b) (1) states “If the agency determines that there is substantial evidence that any impact of the project, either individually or cumulatively, may cause a significant effect on the environment, regardless of whether the overall effect of the project is adverse or beneficial, the Lead Agency shall do one of the following:” The three options are essentially to prepare an EIR;

use a previously prepared EIR; or determine pursuant to certain other existing EIR or other environmental documentation which of the project's effects were adequately examined . . .

In our opinion the Lead Agency (SLO Planning Dept.) failed to comply with CEQA by failing to provide documentation of a factual basis to support their findings that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and that an EIR is not required.

Our opinion is based on the fact that the Planning report documents and the Mitigated Negative Declaration fail to consider, determine and disclose the environmental effects created by the annual patient load required to fully utilize this proposed facility. Using simple math and applying an estimated average patient stay of 7 days (based on applicant's statements incorporated in the Planning report documents) results in a total of 4,732 patients that would be admitted each year to fully utilize the proposed 91 bed facility. The question that has not been addressed is "WHERE ARE THESE PATIENTS COMING FROM?"

There are apparently **NO** reliable surveys or other data available that supports SLO County's need for an acute care mental facility designed to treat 4,700 SLO County residents. In the December 10th Commission hearing, the SLO County Behavioral Health Department Administrator Anne Robin admitted that the Department has failed to maintain accurate records regarding referrals of SLO County residents to Acute Mental Care facilities. Ms. Robin stated in a meeting earlier this year that "there is some old survey around somewhere that we are trying to find". She also stated that "I want this facility and I don't care where it is or how big it is". The SLO County Health Department also acknowledged in two Public Response requests that they are unable to provide accurate data. However they then provide information for the prior four years indicating that 227 individuals a year were referred to Acute Mental Care facilities as discussed below.

In March of this year the SLO Health Agency submitted a report to the Board of Supervisors that included a 3 page attachment discussing this proposed Templeton project. Certain comments in that report are incorporated in the Planning report and in the Mitigate Negative Declaration submitted to the Commission. One of the claims made was that 350 SLO County patients a year have been transferred out of the county for acute mental care hospitalization. The project's supporters repeatedly use this number in their remarks to somehow justify this project. Two problems with this claim. First essentially all SLO County Health Agency patients are involuntarily committed and therefore **are not be eligible for admission** in the proposed voluntary "at will" facility. Secondly, the SLO Health Agency in responses to two public record requests requesting confirmation of the number of SLO residents that the Agency sent to out of SLO County during the past four years to acute care mental facilities resulted in responses such as "There is no document that provides this information . . ." and "This information is not collected in a fashion that is available . . ." and other similar responses. The Health Agency in the one of these responses then provided a table, even though they claim that they do not have the data, indicating the following information regarding apparent Agency transfers to out of county acute care facilities for four years. These numbers are considerably lower than the 350 transfers a year that was claimed in the BOS report and as repeatedly used by project supporters.

- FY 2014-2015 147 Adults 86 Youths Total 233
- FY 2013-2014 156 Adults 81 Youths Total 237
- FY 2012-2013 136 Adults 82 Youths Total 218
- FY 2011-2012 144 Adults 82 Youths Total 226

The SLO Tribune reported recently that 714 patients were transferred during 2014 to acute care facilities in other counties. This information was provided by the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) at the Tribune's request. This number includes both voluntary patients that would be treated at the proposed facility and involuntary patients that will remain in the care of the County Public Health Agency. In other words in 2014 approximately 400 SLO County voluntary patients were admitted to Acute Care facilities.

Another issue is that an estimated 55,000 SLO adults (21 to 64 yrs) on Medi-Cal health plans will not be eligible for services at the proposed facility. That's the law! Adults comprise 65% of our County's population. The uninsured and homeless will not be admitted unless they pay cash. Individuals of all ages suffering alcohol and drug addiction will not be treated by this facility. Involuntary legally committed mental patients will not be admitted. They will remain, along with adult Medi-Cal patients, the responsibility of the SLO County Health Agency. **A well know mental care expert in the area says that "this facility will not treat 85% of the county's residents that need these services the most"**. We estimate that only about 50% of SLO County residents will be eligible for treatment at this facility as presently proposed.

The applicant's claim that, according to a California Hospital Association (CHA) study, 50 acute mental care beds per 100,000 of population are needed statewide. The computes to 140 beds for SLO County. Assuming average 7 day stays results in 7,280 acutely mentally ill patients a year being treated in our County. A far cry from the 714 residents treated in 2014 as indicated above. The Tribune reported that they were unable to verify this 50/100,000 claim with any other reliable sources. The applicant's in the December 10th meeting presented this ratio claim and then submitted a second survey claim that says that 18 beds per 100,000 are needed. This results in 50 beds for SLO that would treat 2,600 patients a year. A substantial variance from the CHA survey claim but well in excess of county needs.

What is the effect of the Lead Agency's failure to accurately investigate, determine and disclose the operational environmental consequences of this facility? Based on the above information it appears that approximately 4,000 or more patients will be migrating from areas outside of SLO County for treatment. The failure to address the number of patients migrating into our county effects several significant issues in the Planning report. For example, the Developers' Air Quality Report submitted to the SLO County Air Pollution District's (APCD) for review and determination of GHG and other emission issues **did not disclose the total number of patients and the number of out of county patients and related family members and friends that will be commuting to and from Templeton each year**. The APCD advised me that their review was based on data that represents the "typical medical facility" and did not take into account any out of county travel data as part of their determinations regarding emission and GHG pollution generated by this facilities operations. The APCD's January 2015 report determined that GHG emissions exceeded allowable limits and that mitigation is required. Medical facilities in our area treat 95% or more of their patients who are local SLO residents with very short commute distances. The proposed mental facility will be treating 80 - 90% of its patients commuting from areas throughout California and beyond. Obviously the APCD report to the Planning Department inaccurately determined actual vehicle miles driven associated with the facility's operation and resulting erroneous emission determinations not in compliance with CEQA. The SLO APCD advised me that they are in the process of revising the results of their determinations to more accurately reflect this previously undisclosed out of county commute issue. This is just one example of various substantial environmental issues concerning the facility's operations that have been overlooked or ignored during the Planning Department's review and assessment of the project.

The Planning Department, as Lead Agency, has failed to address the environmental impact of the size of the project and the source of the facility's patients that will be traveling from out of county areas to Templeton and other issues facility operational issues that will negatively impact our county.

Obviously a full EIR report is required to fully investigate and determine the impact that a 91 bed Acute Care facility will have on SLO County in general and the north SLO county area in particular. The Commission must defer any action on this project at this time and order a full EIR report before considering it for approval.

E. Murray Powell

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 2



Planning Commission Contact Form (response #378)

Internet Webmaster

to:

planningcommission@co.slo.ca.us

01/13/2016 12:58 PM

Hide Details

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>

To: "planningcommission@co.slo.ca.us"

<planningcommission@co.slo.ca.us>

Planning Commission Contact Form (response #378)

Survey Information

Site:	County of SLO
Page Title:	Planning Commission Contact Form
URL:	http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/staff/PCForm.htm
Submission Time/Date:	1/13/2016 12:57:13 PM

Survey Response

Name	Jeryl Luther
Contact Information (Phone Number, Email, etc.)	J-luther@outlook.com
	<p>Dear Mr. Irving, Mr. Topping, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Campbell, Despite being sick and unable to attend the January 14, 2016, Planning Commission hearing regarding the proposed 91-bed psychiatric facility in Templeton, I am submitting my valid concerns about the project today, January 13, 2016, (both in a general email as well as letters to the individual members of the Planning Commission). I expect you've become fatigued at hearing/reading the repetitive comments of citizens opposed to the facility, but I hope you remember that the repetitive nature of those arguments does not negate the legitimacy of said arguments. I am quite puzzled as to why this project is even being considered for Templeton. The size and scale of the project is massively oversized for a community services district with a population of less than 10,000 people. According to my research in the ENTIRE STATE of California: ALL facilities (of 80 beds or more) are located in cities with a population of AT LEAST 100,000 people. ALL</p>

Question or
Comment

facilities (of 20 beds or more) are located in cities with a population of AT LEAST 50,000 people. NO facilities (of any size) are located in a community without a dedicated municipal police department. NO facilities (of any size) are located in a community services district. I am a simple layperson, but even I recognize that the magnitude of this project belies all logic. It's not fear of mental illness that concerns the average resident of Templeton in regard to this project, it's the realization that common sense may be disregarded as our community becomes the location of a poorly conceived psychiatric facility touted as 'the answer' to a lack of mental health services in our county. If any member of the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission thinks that this project, as it stands now, is appropriate for Templeton, I would certainly like a clear and logical response as to why, despite my research, Templeton deserves no better than to be an 'experiment' for this unreasoned project. Templeton clearly does NOT fit ANY criteria suitable for an acute psychiatric facility of this size and significance. Should this facility be approved, I will simply file away all of my literature, letters, emails, and experiences (borne from the reality of being a Templeton resident who

	<p>recognizes the repercussions of this project within my community), until the negative consequences of this facility are realized and I become known as just one of the chorus of voices which were ignored. The proposed psychiatric care facility does NOT belong in Templeton. Sincerely, Jeryl Luther</p>
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January 10, 2016

Board of Supervisors
County Government Center, Room D-430
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Regarding: Proposed 91 Bed Acute Care Psychiatric Treatment Facility
Across from Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton

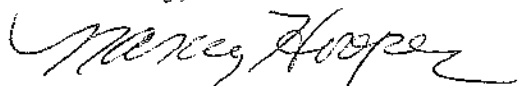
I am against building this facility in Templeton. I believe a smaller and different type of facility may be needed in San Luis Obispo near the hospitals and medical buildings already there. This county needs physicians including psychiatrists. It is very difficult to find doctors especially when we are elderly and on Medicare. It's one of the few high cost of living counties with low reimbursement to doctors in the nation.

Before moving here, I worked for a non-profit agency helping the needy. There was a psychiatric, 10 day stay facility nearby. Patients leaving this facility indicated it did little help in the 10 days to solve their problems. They needed long term ongoing help.

Also, why in times of severe drought are we building more of everything? You ask us to cut our water use, but you continue to allow building.

Please evaluate this proposal carefully. Templeton doesn't have the police, fire, emergency services, traffic conditions to support any large projects.

Sincerely,



Nancy Hoopes

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2016

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County



Fw: Please read
Holly Phipps to: Ramona Hedges

01/13/2016 02:04 PM

The following is for the Billig project.

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162

<http://www.sloplanning.org/>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 01/13/2016 02:04 PM -----

From: County of SLO Planning Dept.
To: Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO@Wings
Date: 01/13/2016 02:00 PM
Subject: Fw: Please read
Sent by: Alex Rosen

----- Forwarded by Alex Rosen/Planning/COSLO on 01/13/2016 02:00 PM -----

From: Diane O'Neil <dianegoneil@mac.com>
To: planning@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 01/12/2016 10:05 AM
Subject: Please read

Diane O'Neil Atascadero for 7 years

il have been the parent of 2 adult children with mental illness for 35 years now. When we lived in Pasadena and Arcadia area, we had no idea that 5 mental hospitals were in that surrounding area, in upscale neighborhoods. When our son had his first episode of bi-polar illness in 1980 at the age of 17, I realize now that we were fortunate (if I can even use that word). that we could visit him daily, always bringing a smile to his face, knowing that we loved and cared for him. It definitely made a difference in the rate of his recovery. He was always The same was true for all the other patients who welcomed the visit of family members.

Beautiful Minds: Facts, not fear

Would you or those living near the proposed mental health facility fear having Ted Turner, Carrie Fisher, Brooke Shields, Mike Wallace, Jane Pauley, Patty Duke, or Buzz Aldrin as their neighbors? Would the likes of Abe Lincoln, Beethoven Van Gogh, Isacc Newton, Winston Churchill, John Nash (Noble Prize Winner) Ernst Hemingway, and Emily Dickinson not be allowed to walk the streets or be near local schools? These and many other famous people suffered with mental illness and spoke publicly or wrote about their diseases. Many stated they recovered with medication and therapy. One stated, "If we're lucky, the next generation won't drag around that personal stigma," So for you on the SLO Planning Commission, will you continue the stigma of mental illness yet in 2015 by turning down the opportunity for the county to have a state of the art hospital right in our backyard near hospitals and physicians in the perfect area. The Billigs have the foresight and opportunity to do that for the hundreds in our community and county to make a difference for the 1 in 4 people, including possibly your relative or neighbor, that might be affected by a chemical imbalance of the brain sometime in their life time. No one else has considered doing this!

I have been the parent of 2 adult children with mental illness for 35 years now. I personally visited my son over 200 times in mental institutions in the Pasadena area when he suffered from 27 bi-polar episodes over 23 years. We didn't even know that our local Pasadena and Arcadia hospitals provided mental health hospitalization in very up-scale neighborhoods. Since he was less than 20 minutes away when recovering, we were fortunate that we could visit him nightly, always bringing a smile to his face, knowing that we loved and cared for him. The same was true for all the other patients who welcomed the sight of family members. He graduated with honors from high school, received athlete of the year with highest GPA, and was a National Merit Finalist. He received a degree from UCLA with many episodes when stressed during finals, but he did it. Unfortunately, he died of a heart attack at 40. My husband is an Aeronautical Engineer and I was an English teacher. I am a strong NAMI advocate and know many who suffer with mental illness. NAMI provides family support groups, 12 week Family to Family classes, Parents and Teachers as Allies and In Our Own Voice to many families in North County. When a local therapist asked an AAUW group how many had family members with bi-polar disorder, over 60 hands flew in the air. Mental illnesses occur at similar rates around the world, in every culture, and in all socio-economic groups. Early identification and effective intervention is the key to successfully treating the disorder and preventing future disability. People do recover with medication and therapy. Also, family support is an important key.

YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO COULD IMPROVE THE LIVES
OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE BY VOTING YES TO BUILD THIS
FACILITY.

Please do so.

With much gratitude,
Diane O'Neil



Proposed Templeton psychiatric hospital

Jim Cartland

to:

rhedges, fmecham, darnold, bgibson, lcompton, ahill

01/14/2016 12:17 PM

Hide Details

From: Jim Cartland <jpcartland@gmail.com> Sort List...

To: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us,
darnold@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us,
ahill@co.slo.ca.us

Consider having a 91 bed dedicated neurosurgery hospital, neonatal hospital, children's hospital, cardiac hospital, burn hospital, orthopedic hospital or other similar facility in Templeton. If you follow the logic of the proponents of the proposed psychiatric facility, all of these should be built because there are patients in the community that need these services and currently have to travel out of the area to receive them.

There are not enough physician specialists in the community to support any such large scale dedicated facility, neither for inpatient care nor for needed outpatient follow up.

This is even more apparent with psychiatric care as there is virtually no

physician psychiatric support in the community. I think it unlikely there would be a "Field of Dreams" moment (if you build it they will come). As has been reported, TCCH has been trying to recruit a psychiatrist for some time without success. Even if professional staff could be found to work at the hospital, there is no needed outpatient support.

Please vote against the planned facility for the above and many other previously stated reasons.

j



Behavioral Health Facility
Vicki Shelby to: Ramona Hedges

01/14/2016 01:16 PM

Our office received a call from Robert Haas today in opposition to the above facility that is proposed for Templeton. He opposes it as he feels it's the wrong location, the proposed facility is too big, it will impact the schools, just to highlight a few of his concerns.

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham
1055 Monterey St., D430
San Luis Obispo CA 93408
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful " - Frank G. Burgess
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been " - Mark Twain

PETITION OPPOSING PROPOSED PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY IN TEMPLETON

Petition summary
 and background:

Whereas, this facility would be located in the middle of a residential neighborhood full of young children and just miles from four different schools, thereby creating significant public safety risks;
Whereas, the psychiatric facility would service patients imported from other counties because its size greatly exceeds the demand for such services in our county, yet the facility would place added burdens on our county's public safety, traffic infrastructure and education resources;
Whereas, half of the beds in the psychiatric facility would house school-aged patients, all of whom the Templeton Unified School District would be required to locate and educate under California law, thereby imposing considerable additional costs on our local school district without adequate reimbursement;
Whereas, the Templeton community does not have the public safety, mental health, or addiction treatment infrastructure in place to properly handle the transition of the population at a psychiatric health facility back into the community.
Be it therefore resolved, that we, the good citizens of San Luis Obispo County, OPPOSE the proposed psychiatric facility.

Action petitioned for: We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to vote against the proposed Psychiatric Facility in Templeton

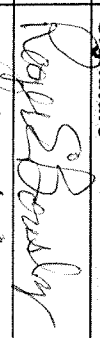








Printed name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Barbara Haas	Barbara Haas	1492 Ridge Rd. Templeton		11/6/15
Robert Haas	Robert Haas	1446 Ridge Rd Templeton		
Theresa Haas	Theresa Haas	2223 Heather Ct	Terine Haas Templeton	11/6/15
Jason Haas	Jason Haas	928 Noddy Ct, Paso Robles, CA 93446		11/15/15
Sally Dunn	Sally Dunn	1054 Fawn Creek, Templeton 93465		11/26/15
Jim Dunn	Jim Dunn	1054 Fawn Creek Templeton 93465		11-26-15
JOAN NEST	Joan Nest	8730 Sierra Vista Rd.		12/9/15

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Printed name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Roger Bensky		769 LAVENDER AVE TEMPLETON, CA	15 beds MAX	11-30-15
GREER BAKA		772 LAVENDER AVE TEMPLETON, CA		11-30-15
Shelley Barr		772 LAVENDER AVE TEMPLETON, CA		11-30-15
DAVID EOSAU		764 Lavender Lane Templeton CA	No infrastructure	11-30-15
MARILYN DENNER		1858 ORLEN LN. CA	WRONG LOCATION / TRAFFIC	12-1-15
Colleen Bousky		769 Lavender Ln Templeton	Safety issue / Traffic	12-1-15
Ann Caldwell		769 Lavender Ln Templeton		12-2-2015
ANTHONY CHERONE		775 Lavender Ln		12-3-15
S. Duvall		3760 NIDERER RD		

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Printed name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Norma R. Sheth	Norma R Sheth	Atascadero CA 93422 14505 El Camino Road	Templeton does not have the ability to handle all	12/2/15
Loris V. Plunkett	Loris V. Plunkett	5810 Aguda Ave Atascadero, Ca 93422		12/4/15
Sally Ferree	Sally Ferree	7495 Dinal Ave Atascadero		12/6/15
Therese Peterson	Therese Peterson	6205 Santa Rosa Rd Atascadero		12/11/15
Maureen Barnett	Maureen Barnett	351 Fremont Way, Templeton	Do not agree to mix elderly with psychiatric	12/12/15
Jas CH WIECHT	Jas CH WIECHT	6630 Santa Rosa Rd Atascadero		12/12/15
JOAN GABRIELSKI	Joan Gabrielski	1168 Alta Vista Rd Atascadero CA		12/12/15
Michael A. Barnett	Michael A. Barnett	251 Foothill Way, Templeton Atascadero CA 93422		12/12/15
Jaclyn Seave	Jaclyn Seave	8485 Santa Rosa Rd		12/12/15

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Printed name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Elena Martinho	Elena Martinho	1111 Las Tareas Es Templeton	Poor location, limited services	11-23-15
Sharon Fern	Sharon Fern	3915 Golden Hill	Poor location	Dec 3, 15
Elviread Brown	Elviread Brown	1145 Quateel Lane Templeton Ca	Should be in a larger town	12-3-15
Norman Brown	Norman Brown	1145 Quateel Dr Templeton CA	Not a good fit	12-3-15
HERB Sisti	HERB Sisti	2439 KAWITONS LANE PASO ROBLES	Will not happen	12-8-15
Vicki Harrison	Vicki Harrison	P.O. Box 3162 Shell Beach	You don't have Dis in this County	12-8-15
Valerie	Valerie	P.O. Box 1839	To help facility	12-10-15
Brian Seta	Brian Seta	P.O. Box 2402, PR		12-10-15
Michael Scotti	Michael Scotti	422 Penchance Ln, PR		12-11-15

9

PETITION OPPOSING PROPOSED PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY IN TEMPLETON

[illegible]

PETITION OPPOSING PROPOSED PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY IN TEMPLETON

Printed name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Ricki Andersen	Rube Andersen	10 Box 1541 Alexander, Ga		12/12/15
ALBERT FAIR	Albert Fair	3155 SAN FERNANDO		12/12/15
Linda M Brown	Linda M. Brown	6800 Hwy 47 Box 11 Atta.	Do not condone	12/12/15
A. JIM MITCHELL	A. Jim Mitchell	10095 ATASCADERO RD		12/12/15
Rosalinda Muiars	Rm2	10095 Atascadero Ave		12/12/15
ROBERT ECKSTE	Robert Eckste	1245 SANTA RITA RD		12-12-15
Jami Seal	Jami Seal	1735 Sankelwood Ln		12-12-15
Gene Brace	Gene Brace	4505 Sycamore Rd. Attas		12-12-15
MATTHEW BARNETT	Matthew Barnett	251 ROUTE 104	Do Not Condone	12-12-15
George Westford	George Westford	9127 N. Santa Margarita Rd. Attas	Do Not Condone	12-13-15
Conrad Seale	Conrad Seale	3480 Santa Rosa road		12-13-15